

University of California: In Memoriam, 2000

Joseph L. Hodges, Jr., Statistics: Berkeley

1922-2000
Professor Emeritus

Joseph L. Hodges, Jr. had a long distinguished career at Berkeley as a researcher, gifted teacher, and active participant in the University Senate. He held important positions in professional societies and in both campus and university administration--and was widely known on campus as a lunchtime fixture at the Faculty Club.

Born in Shreveport, Louisiana, on April 10, 1922, Joe entered the University of California at the age of sixteen and earned his B.A. in mathematics in 1942. He remained at Berkeley as a graduate student of mathematics, attracted by Professor Tarski, but soon found himself in a group started by Professor Jerzy Neyman to deal with statistical problems for the military, particularly bombing patterns. This led to his going to Guam as an operations analyst with LeMay's Twentieth Air Force. Another member of that group was Erich Lehmann (now Professor Emeritus of Statistics) who became a lifelong friend and frequent scientific collaborator.

After the war he continued this work for another year in Washington, D.C. then returned to Berkeley to continue graduate work. While in Washington, he met Theodora Jane Long (Teddy), and they married in 1947. He obtained his Ph.D. in 1949 under the supervision of Professor Neyman and joined the statistics faculty (then part of the Mathematics Department). He remained at Berkeley for the rest of his life, except for a year's leave at the University of Chicago (1951-52), where he rejected a permanent move, and a sabbatical year in Sweden (1956-57).

Joe was superb and inspiring as a teacher and well liked as a major advisor. He was particularly concerned with undergradu

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ate teaching. In connection with this teaching he co-authored the elementary texts *Basic Concepts of Probability and Statistics* (1964; 2nd ed. 1970) jointly with Lehmann (which was translated into Danish, Hebrew, Italian and Farsi), and *Stat Lab--An Empirical Approach* (1975) jointly with the psychologists Krech and Crutchfield.

In statistics, Joe is best known for his work in nonparametric inference. In a technical report (with Fix), written in 1951 but published only in 1989, he pioneered nonparametric density estimation. He is the inventor of the Hodges bivariate-sign test and (with Lehmann) of the Hodges-Lehmann estimator. One of his most striking discoveries was the phenomenon of superefficiency, which exploded long-held beliefs about maximum likelihood estimation and had a profound effect on asymptotic theory. His bibliography lists a steady stream of publications, at least one, but usually more, per year until the 1970s when administrative duties began to consume his energy.

He served on the governing boards of both the International Biometrics Society and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and perhaps his major service to the statistical profession was his term as Editor of the *Annals of Mathematical Statistics*, the leading journal of theoretical statistics. During his term the size of the journal increased from 1500 to 2000 pages a year, but he worked so efficiently that he was praised for reducing the average time from submission of a paper to publication. At first he handled both the editing and publishing of the journal; however, it became clear during his tenure that the workload was becoming unmanageable. He convinced the Institute to divide the two functions and found and established a suitable Managing Editor.

While he was still editor of the *Annals* he was invited by the University to become a member of the Committee on Budget and Interdepartmental Relations of the Academic Senate. Against the advice of his colleagues, Hodges felt he could not turn down the invitation to serve on the Budget Committee (surely the most important Senate activity); at the same time, he felt he had made a commitment to the Institute that he could

not go back on. His effectiveness is indicated by the fact that after his sabbatical he was appointed Chairman of the Budget Committee. Then began a long period of University service, focused on academic matters.

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He became Assistant to the Chancellor for Academic Affairs, member and then Chair of the Universitywide Budget Committee, and Academic Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Known for his devotion to quality, he was considered impeccable in his fairness and objectivity. Other service included stints on the Library Committee, the Committee on Year-Round Operation, the Board of the Faculty Club, the Executive Committee of the Miller Institute, and various departmental chores.

Joe joined the Faculty Club as soon as he became a member of the faculty and was widely known for his conversations, most of the time at a set table in the Great Hall but on Fridays with the group known as the Little Thinkers. At six feet four inches, Joe was an imposing presence, and not just physically. A reliable source of University and campus gossip, Joe kept the conversation lively. Being a contrarian, he would often exaggerate his innate conservatism for the sake of argument. For example, he opposed the admission of women to the Faculty Club and praised Ronald Reagan. He delighted in strong advocacy of faculty research that was considered controversial or not accepted by the establishment.

Those who had the opportunity to visit his home on Campus Drive know how much he enjoyed his family. Even here, the University was important. Teddy taught on campus for many years, and four of their five children attended UC campuses. Later, his eleven grandchildren gave him further delight. On March 1, 2000, he died unexpectedly from a heart attack.

His vivid presence will be missed by all who knew him.

David Blackwell Albert H. Bowker Erich L. Lehmann

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